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For immediate release

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GOV. PATTON SIGNS LEGISLATION MANDATING TRAINING FOR TELECOMMUNICATORS

FRANKFORT, KY – Gov. Paul Patton today signed into law House Bill 406, which requires all full-time telecommunicators to complete a training academy and attend annual professional development courses. This legislation will ensure that all telecommunicators across the state are uniformly trained and equally prepared to successfully do their jobs.

Rep. Steve Riggs, the bill's primary sponsor, said the bill was important because it improves the quality of response for law enforcement, fire and EMS across the state.

"Citizens want that first person they call to be trained as well as possible to respond to their call as efficiently and professionally as possible," Riggs said.

Under the legislation, all telecommunicators who have access to a Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) must attend a four-week academy. CJIS is a nation-wide computerized criminal justice system. Telecommunicators who do not have access to CJIS must attend a three-week academy. The legislation also requires all telecommunicators to attend eight hours of annual professional development courses.

"A well-trained telecommunicator is absolutely vital in an emergency situation," said DOCJT Commissioner John W. Bizzack. "A telecommunicator is often the first point of contact for law enforcement, and all emergency responders, and they must be equipped with the skills necessary to perform their jobs."

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